

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of operating an information handling system (IHS) including a processor, the method comprising:
 - determining if a power adapter or a battery is supplying power to the IHS;
 - continuously monitoring the output current of the power adapter if the power adapter is supplying power to the IHS;
 - continuously monitoring the output current of the battery if the battery is supplying power to the IHS;
 - reducing the frequency at which the processor operates if the power output of the power adapter exceeds a first threshold current level; and
 - reducing the frequency at which the processor operates if the power output of the battery exceeds a second threshold current level.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second threshold current levels are the same.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second threshold current levels are different.
4. The method of claim 1 including determining the power output rating of the power adapter if the power adapter is supplying power to the IHS.
5. The method of claim 4 including setting the first threshold current level dependent on the power output rating of the power adapter.

6. The method of claim 1 including determining the power output rating of the battery if the battery is supplying power to the IHS.
7. The method of claim 6 including setting the second current threshold level dependent on the power output rating of the battery.
8. A method of operating an information handling system (IHS) including a processor, the method comprising:
 - determining if a power adapter or a battery is supplying power to the IHS;
 - continuously monitoring the output current of the power adapter if the power adapter is supplying power to the IHS;
 - continuously monitoring the output current of the battery if the battery is supplying power to the IHS;
 - reducing the frequency at which the processor operates if the power output of the power adapter exceeds a predetermined threshold current level or the power output of the battery exceeds the predetermined threshold current level.
9. The method of claim 8 including determining the power output rating of the power adapter and the power output rating of the battery.
10. The method of claim 9 including setting the predetermined threshold current level dependent on the power output rating of the power adapter and the power output rating of the battery.

11. A method of operating an information handling system (IHS) including a processor, the method comprising:
 - continuously monitoring the output current of a power adapter which supplies power to the IHS; and
 - reducing the frequency at which the processor operates if the power output of the power adapter exceeds a first threshold current level.
12. A method of operating an information handling system (IHS) including a processor, the method comprising:
 - continuously monitoring the output current of a battery which supplies power to the IHS;
 - reducing the frequency at which the processor operates if the power output of the power battery exceeds a first threshold current level.
13. An information handling system (IHS) comprising
 - a processor;
 - a memory coupled to the processor;
 - an AC adapter and a battery for supplying power to the IHS; and
 - a power control circuit, coupled to the AC adapter and the battery, for reducing the frequency at which the processor operates if the power output of either the AC adapter or the battery instantaneously exceeds a predetermined threshold level, the predetermined threshold level being dependent on the power output rating of the AC adapter and the power rating of the battery.

14. The IHS of claim 13 wherein the power control circuit monitors a power supply identification signal from the AC adapter to determine the power rating of the AC adapter.
15. The IHS of claim 13 wherein the power control circuit monitors a battery identification signal from the battery to determine the power rating of the battery.
16. The IHS of claim 13 wherein the processor includes a control pin for controlling the frequency at which the processor operates.
17. An information handling system (IHS) comprising
 - a processor;
 - a memory coupled to the processor;
 - an AC adapter for supplying power to the IHS; and
 - a power control circuit, coupled to the AC adapter, for reducing the frequency at which the processor operates if the power output of the AC adapter instantaneously exceeds a predetermined threshold level, the predetermined threshold level being dependent on the power output rating of the AC adapter.
18. The IHS of claim 17 wherein the power control circuit monitors a power supply identification signal from the AC adapter to determine the power rating of the AC adapter.
19. The IHS of claim 17 wherein the processor includes a control pin for controlling the frequency at which the processor operates.

20. An information handling system (IHS) comprising:
 - a processor;
 - a memory coupled to the processor;
 - a battery for supplying power to the IHS; and
 - a power control circuit, coupled to the battery, for reducing the frequency at which the processor operates if the power output of the battery instantaneously exceeds a predetermined threshold level, the predetermined threshold level being dependent on the power output rating of the battery.
21. The IHS of claim 20 wherein the power control circuit monitors a battery identification signal from the battery to determine the power rating of the battery.
22. The IHS of claim 20 wherein the processor includes a control pin for controlling the frequency at which the processor operates.